

Nevada to Keep Urine Test for Boxers - MabuhayRadio

Written by Joseph G. Lariosa
Friday, 11 June 2010 14:45 -

By JOSEPH G. LARIOSA

(Journal Group Link International)

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CHICAGO (*JGLi*) – The effective blood test to detect steroids among boxers is still a work in progress.

Instead, the Nevada State Athletic Commission (NSAC) should enhance its technique of urinalysis by making sure that boxers or athletes emptying their urine into the container are properly watched in order to avoid switching of urine specimen.

A panel of experts gave these pieces of advice to members of the NSAC Wednesday (June 9)

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in Las Vegas, Nevada as it entertained the suggestion over media reports that the NSAC add blood test to detect performance-enhancing drugs to urinalysis that is currently in place.

Undefeated boxing champion Floyd Mayweather, Jr., backed out from his scheduled March fight this year when Filipino world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao refused to submit to a blood test to detect performance enhancing drug (PED) 24 days before the fight instead of the 14 days to 48 hours at random before fight time that Mayweather wanted. □ While Pacquiao later agreed to submit samples of his blood 14 days before the fight, the camp of Mayweather has not yet commented on Pacquiao's concessionary move. But Mayweather camp, although unconfirmed, put out word that he is taking a one-year leave from boxing.

During the nearly four-hour discussion monitored by this reporter accessible by the public through a teleconference call Wednesday, Dr. Robert Voy, chief medical officer of the U.S. Olympic Committee between 1985 and 1989, told the Commission chaired by Pat Lundvall that if there are performance-enhancing substances in the blood, they will be present "in the blood within six to 24 hours after use."

This would debunk the highly publicized claim of Travis Tygert, a lawyer and chief operating officer of the U.S. Anti Doping Agency (USADA), that the most effective way to detect steroids is to draw blood at least 48 hours before the fight.

Doctor Voy's testimony indicated that if the PED substances were taken 48 hours before the

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fight, the PED substances would no longer be detected after the fight.

And for the PED substances to be detected, the blood should be drawn a few hours before and after the fight.

Mr. Tygert, who was listening to the discussion, however, explained that a research by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on file showed that blood test was able to detect synthetic HGH (human growth hormone) from athletes. But the result was not being made public.

Another speaker, New Jersey boxing lawyer Patrick English suggested that NSAC include Olympic drug expert, Dr. Donald Caitlin, in its drug testing protocol, pointing out that USADA needs to put the results of their test "under peer reviewed" so test results will be validated by other scientists.

It was disclosed that blood testing has caught merely one HGH cheater (a rugby player from London

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England

) in eight years.

Tygart

said, "in the next few months" a reliable blood test will be available which can catch HGH users 14 to 21 days after usage.

Blood Test Is Quicker Than Urine Test

Tygart advocated that “blood can be quicker than urine test as you don’t have to drop your pants.” He was quoted by Oscar de la Hoya in a blog that became a subject of Paquiao’s lawsuit against De la Hoya and Mayweather. He insisted that only blood and urine tests done completely at random will be effective in catching cheaters.

Dr. David Watson, ringside chief physician in Las Vegas, suggested that the person collecting the urine specimen from the boxer should be very watchful that the boxer is not going to give him a urine specimen from somebody else.

He even suggested that blood should not be drawn “within three to four weeks” from the fight to avoid “hematoma.”

Although, blood tests were supposed to be taken during the Mayweather-Sugar Shane Mosley bout in Las Vegas last May 1, only urine sample was taken from Mosley that will be saved for

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“later,” it was disclosed.

When asked by this reporter if NSAC will be adopting blood-test protocol for Nevada boxers any time soon, NSAC Executive Director Keith Kizer said, “I don’t know.” He said, NSAC only has a urine test.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kizer clarified that it was lightweight boxer Ali Funeka, who was suspended, fined \$35,000 and asked to return \$15,625 that he got for making the weight. Funeka failed the post-fight drug urine test for taking diuretics, a drug used by boxers to cut weight.

His opponent in that bout, former two-time world champion Joan Guzman, was penalized \$30,000 for being overweight during their rematch that was won by Guzman via split decision.

Funeka is one of the boxers of Golden Boy Promotions, which co-promoted the botched Mayweather-Pacquiao fight last March. # # #

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